the officials and whether they have been acquitted? Why they are acquitted if they are not punished?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is the court which acquits.

SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL: It is in the reply, Sir.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH: Sir, I have already stated that 34 cases against senior officers of the NTC have been launched in 1984-85. Out of these 34, action has been completed in 16 cases and inquiry is pending in 18 cases. In one case, the case was closed with the observation of the Central Vigilance Commissioner because a *prima facie* case was not found against him. The cases are closed only when there is a precise recommendation from the relevant authority that it cannot be proceeded further.

SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL: Not one case is filed in the court.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. Please don't answer.

श्री विठ्ठलराव माधवराव जाधव : सभापति महोदय, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि जो हमारे देश में सिक मिलें हैं उनमें एन० टी० सी० में कितनी सिक मिलें हैं ? अगर एन० टी० सी० में करप्ट आफिशियल्स की इररैगुलेरिटीज की वजह से कुछ मिलें सिक हुई हैं तो ऐसी सिक मिलों की संख्या कितनी है और ऐसे आफिशियल्स के खिलाफ आप क्या कार्रवाई करना चाहते हैं ।

श्री चन्द्र शेखर सिंह: एन० टी० सी० में सिक मिलें हैं, यह स्थिति नहीं है । एन० टी० सी० तो सिक मिलों के लिये ही तैयार किया गया है और उसके अंदाज में यह कहना कठिन है कि कौनसी सिक मिल नहीं है । लेकिन आम तौर से एन० टी० सी० का परफोरमेंस पिछले दिनों में काफी अच्छा रहा है और यह एक ऐसा अस्पताल है जहां पर मिलें बीमार होकर आती हैं और वे स्वस्थ हो रही हैं ।

Representation of Workers at the Board of Directors' level in the public sector undertakings

*383. DR. SHYAM SUNDAR MOHAPATRA:

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:†

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of those public sector undertakings where workers are at presented at the Board of Directors' level;

(b) what are the names of those undertakings where workers have no representation at the Board of Director's level;

(c) what steps are being taken to give them representation at the Board level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) A Scheme of Workers' Participation was notified by the Ministry of Labour on 30th December, 1983. The Scheme envisages participation of labour at the shop-floor and plant levels in all public sector undertakings except those which have been specifically exempted. As regards participation at the Board level, the scheme envisages that the administrative Ministry/ Department concerned will draw, in consultation with the Ministry of Labour a list of undertakings which it considers would be suitable for introduction of the Scheme at the Board level also. This information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Sir, the Public Undertakings Committee of Parliament in its Seventeenth Report (1971-72) recommended as follows: The Committee was strongly in favour of participation of workers and their representatives in management of public undertakings. By workers' participation in management the Commit-

†This question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri V. Gopalsamy.

tee understood that: (i) workers through their duly elected representatives must physically participate in actual decision-making; (ii) the participation should be at all levels beginning from the shop floor level to the Board of Directors' level; and (iii) the participation means that workers and their representatives should not only be consulted but should also feel that they are actual partners in management. But the Government has simply slept over the matter. Thirteen years have passed. Had the recommendation been implemented, at least to a certain extent the deterioration of management and corruption could have been checked. Our hon. Finance Minister, Mr. V. P. Singh, in his capacity as Commerce Minister, had on 14th September 1984, when he was presiding over a Seminar on Workers' Participation in Management, welcomed the idea and stated that it has been a complete success in NTC mills. He had also stated that workers' participation at management level is a vital aspect of the industrial system and is a commitment of the Government to the most important sector in industrial democracy. Then I would like to know from the hon. Minister what is preventing them to implement this scheme of workers' participation in management.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: Sir, though information is not coming—in fact this aspect is handled by the Labour Ministry-- I know and I checked with the MD of NTC who is now here—that out of nine subsidiaries, in six subsidiaries of NTC there is workers' representation at Board level. In the units there is quite a sizeable approach, in about half of them at unit|factory level. That is the position of NTC. Certainly there is no hesitancy on the part of the Government to press for representation of labour at Board level and I certainly agree with the hon. Member that it would go to improve many things in the functioning of the public sector. There are various administrative Ministries under whom various public sector enterprises lie and they are taking initiative according to the circumstances. We do not have the full information. That we will pass on to the hon. Member.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that genuine workers' representatives in the Board of Directors of public sector banks were recently removed but ruling party workers masquerading as social workers were retained. If so, I want to know from the hon. Minister the specific reasons for removing workers' representatives from the Board of Directors.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: I don't have immediate information.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You must put a specific question with regard to one unit. If you ask generally, how can he answer? In any particular unit, have you got information?

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Is it a fact that in the Bank of India, workers' representatives were not allowed to scrutinize the balance sheets?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Have you got information with regard to Bank of India?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: No, Sir. Immediately I don't have.

SHRI P. N. SUKUL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, althought it has been partly implemented here and there, as the hon. Minister has just told us, it is rather regrettable that despite 20 months of lapse in the issuance of the notification the scheme has not yet been finally enforced in all the undertakings. Now, there also seems to be controversy regarding representation of workers' at various levels of management. I would like to know from the hon. Minister at what levels the Government proposes to have workers' participation in management and by when this scheme is supposed to be finally enforced in all the undertakings.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: Sir, the scheme that was envisaged in 1983 has been implemented in 42 enterprises. In 13 enterprises it is in the process of implementation. As regards the various levels that are envisaged in the scheme in December 1983, one is

at the shop floor level—of production facilities, storage facilities, etc. Then at plant level which includes economic and financial areas also it is envisaged in the scheme—of profit and loss statements, review of operating expenses and plant performance, in financial problems, personnel matters and welfare areas. At the Board level it is the administrative Ministry which has to take initiative and finalise representations. Now, as to by when this will be done, so far as it was envisaged, at the shop floor level it will be mandatory on all. So, 42 have already implemented it and 13 are in the process of implementation. About Board, initiative are being taken and, as I receive information. I will pass it on.

SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA: Sir, from the answer given to the original question by the hon. Minister, it appeared that in certain industries a decision has been taken to have workers' representation. And in certain other industries the decision has not been taken so far. May I know what the criteria are for deciding the suitability of a particular industry or a particular enterprise for workers' participation at different levels, whether there is any principle involved, whether any criteria have been laid down or it is just an arbitrary decision of the bosses of the enterprise or the bosses of the department?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: No, it is not an arbitrary principle, Sir, for instance, those enterprises which are newly set up or a new corporation may not find it possible to start participation in it. There are certain corporations like the National Projects Construction Corporation, which take up projects at one place and then at another place. There will not be that feasibility to implement the scheme in such circumstances. There is large multiplicity of unions also in some enterprises. That can be one sort of problem. So, it is not arbitrary. The general principle is to implement it.

SHRI M. M. JACOB: Sir, with regard to the nationalised banks, the board of directors used to have the representatives of the workers elected by their staff unions. Subsequently we found that labour representatives were nominated by the Government on the board of directors. Sir, now I want to know what the present policy is regarding the nomination of the labour representatives on the board of directors of the nationalised banks.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: The tenure of many directors has expired. We intend to fill them up. For these we will be drawing people who are in the labour field.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: If I have heard him correctly, he says that various Ministries, various units associated with various Departments or Ministries are considering the proposal. And there are some considerations to go by. Now, the question is this. Is there any guideline laying under what consideration, under what circumstances, this cannot be done. That is what I want to know.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: I have just answered that question, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has given all the areas in which he has not been able to implement.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: He said, they were considering. What are the principles? I wanted to know them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has given the principles. You did not hear.

SHRI R MOHANARANGAM: Sir, in his answer, the Minister has stated that there were certain public enterprises in which there was no workers' representation. And he has also stated that in almost all the public undertakings workers' representations were there and that certain public undertakings were given exemption. I want to know what the reasons are for giving exemption to those public undertakings?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: This, precisely, I will answer again. I think, I have not been able to convey it to the hon. Members.

One can be that there may be a new enterprise, and in an enterprise which is just started, there may be a problem in starting this scheme. Then, there are certain corporations which work at one place at one time and at another place at another time. So, that can be a problem. Then, the multiplicity of the unions can also be a problem. It can lead to a lot of problems. So, these are some of the areas.

DR. SHANTI G. PATEL: Sir, there are a large number of public sector undertakings in which workers' participation is not being implemented at all levels. In this case, is there any programme of the Government to have this participation programme implemented by a certain date? As I said earlier, there are a large number of industries in which this has not been implemented.

Secondly, the question is how these workers' representatives are going to be appointed. One is direct election. The other is nomination through the workers' unions. These workers' unions have been recognised not on the basis of election, that is, through votes, secret ballot, by workers, but according to the whims of the managements concerned. May I, therefore, submit that the Government should see that proper representatives who are directly elected or nominated through workers' unions, in whom the workers have shown confidence through secret ballot, are sent at the participating levels to have proper participation.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: It is not true that nothing has been done. I have already said that in 42 enterprises at shop floor level and at plant level, the scheme has been implemented and 13 are in the process of implementation. Regarding the suggestion of the election process, it was considered. .

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think the Labour Minister will reply.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: I suppose, Sir.

DR. SHANTI G. PATEL: I want 'yes' or 'no' reply.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, he cannot reply. It is the Labour Minister who will reply as this pertains to the representation of labour. Now, Mr. Sukomal Sen.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Regarding workers' participation in the Board of Directors, there is a demand from the labour side that the number of labour Directors in the Board of Directors should be equal to the Directors taken from the management side with equal powers and status in the decision making process. In view of this, whether the Government is ready to accept that suggestion which emanated from the trade unions?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Parity for labour.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: At present we do not have 50 per cent representation. We are going on with the scheme which we announced in December. Certainly there could be a goal for future.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 384.

Quality control of stainless steel products

384. SHRI J. P. GOYAL:
SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARDWAJ:†

Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any mechanism to control the quality of stainless steel products being sold in the market;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) if no such mechanism exists, whether Government propose to introduce any mechanism so as to check the overflow of sub-standard stainless steel products?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Ramchandra Bharadwaj.